

October 19, 2009

**OBEY ATTENDS GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW DENTAL CENTER IN RICE LAKE  
*RICE LAKE IS THE SITE FOR 7TH MARSHFIELD CLINIC DENTAL CENTER***

RICE LAKE, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Rice Lake today to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new 12,000 square foot Marshfield Clinic Dental Center. The Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc., recently received a \$2.3 million federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for capital improvements and about \$1 million of those funds will be used to fund the equipment necessary for the dental center. The HRSA grant funding was provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which was produced by the Appropriations Committee which Obey chairs.

“Dental care is a critical component of good health care and throughout the district there are people who don’t have access to care,” said Obey. I’m glad to see these recovery dollars will add a boost in the community both by providing increased access to health care and by providing good jobs – both in terms of short term construction jobs and long term health sector jobs.”

“These are tough economic times and in tough times it can be very difficult for deserving, working families to have access to the most basic things families need like dental care. Facilities like this one help more people get through tough times. The same is true for other projects in Barron County which have been funded through the Recovery Act in the past three months,” said Obey.

These include:

- \$3.6 million for the Main Street road project in Rice Lake;
- \$1.3 million to increase availability of farm operating loans through FSA;
- \$2.8 million to upgrade access to quality nursing home care in Chetek; and
- \$1 million to improve drinking water quality and \$610,000 for expansion of the library in Turtle Lake;

“All of these projects put people to work building them and provide needed, long term services to help families and communities get through these tough economic times,” Obey said. They

are good investments in America's future."

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